

## Crosspool Forum Open Meeting - Thursday 25th July. 2019. St Columba's Hall; 7pm

Present; Ian Hague (Chair); Steve Reynolds (Vice chair); Gillian Drinkwater (Hon Mins Sec); John Drinkwater (Treasurer); Roger Kite; Chris Batchelor; Sylvia Feeny; Janet Tonks; Ian Jenkinson

Apologies; Cllr. Mamood Mahroof; Police PCSOs; Mark Stewart; Mark Shipman, Nick Duggan  
Guests; Cllr. Anne Murphy & Cllr. Tim Huggan; Ian (Ben) Sherman, (founder of Ben's Centre); Catherine Kenny, (volunteer manager Sheffield Hospitals Charity), plus 24 Crosspool residents  
Ian H. welcomed everyone on the hottest July day the UK had had!, and introduced the top table. No matters arose from the Minutes of the last Open Meeting, 25th April and they were agreed to be a true record.

### CHAIRMAN'S & VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

- Parking Services - "civil enforcement officers" have visited the precinct and checked on the use of the parking spaces, especially the disabled bays; (Cllr. Murphy said they have done so and ticketed a few cars). The Spar Double Yellow Line's appear to be a hotspot for illegal parking, as is the disabled bay at the front of the chip shop. They have been round the school roads too, with a car cam. (Someone was caught parked in the Vernon Terrace Bus Loading Bay). The public can contact parking service on 0114 273 4567, and they are happy to receive dated photos of bad parking and will chase these up.
- A New community contact for us is ward officer Mubarak Hussain, with whom Ian & Steve had had a long conversation, works with the councillors to look at any applications for Ward Pot funding. They like to support new groups starting up or existing ones like our Easy Exercise. (Tim Huggan said things as diverse as popcorn machines for a school PTA, & even teacups have been funded this way).
- Sandygate Rd mobile telephone mast/base station application. The land on which they wanted to erect this is private land and didn't belong to the Council, so no permission would have been granted, so the application was withdrawn, (Tim said the Hallam Football pitch has a existing mast, and it is hoped this facility can be shared. It is a different sort of planning application in which acceptance is presumed and has to be disputed if unacceptable).
- The proposed demolition of the Plough. The deadline was extended to 23rd July, as this iconic building still has an "Asset of Community Value" attached to it. The application for change of use will go to the planning group in September. Anne & others were on site earlier this week when a load of rubbish from one of the owner's other sites (off Ecclesall Rd) was brought and was to be dumped there. Things got rather heated when Anne had asked to see their waste licence, with abusive language from the lorry driver threatening to get "Mr Platt" on the phone - Anne said she'd love to speak to him - we have been trying to! The visit at that time was because Lindsay Tolson a great great great grandson of Tom Armitage (Plough landlord from 1870s), was there. Tom had played cricket for Hallam Cricket Club (and also for England) - the first recognized England World Test cricketer! So there is still a great deal of history attached to the site. The 'Look North' TV programme team were also there filming, and cricket was in play on the pitch.
- A local Freemason (Tapton Hall Lodge) got in touch with a view to becoming more involved in the community - nothing further has been heard.
- Shop canopy; the collapsing old wrought iron canopy above Nest, Inspiration & the chip shop is in dire need of repair – and could be brought back into use as an interesting feature. The chip shop and resident above the Nest has offered to pay for their sections to be restored. Cllr Anne Murphy has emailed the "Inspiration" landlord to ask if he will join the others in contributing to getting this repaired.
- Rivelin Water Treatment plant; this was officially opened (after completion on time & within budget) by the Duke of Gloucester with no publicity due to security concerns.
- Care in Crosspool; Elizabeth Mitzi has retired and had sent a letter thanking the Forum for its support. The new manager is Jude Murphy.

- CCTV cameras; this is still a work in progress. Ian & Steve have received so many estimates over the last few years going up constantly - the latest is that Amey wants to charge £300 approx. to erect the camera and a further £1530 approx. to pay for the electricity for 25 years! Anne has spoken to Cllr Bob Johnson who said the next stage is to meet Tom Finnegan –Smith (Head of Transport & Highways Services) to outline a plan to work with the community, the police and schools to get this working; we have a "reasonable argument" for needing this scheme in place.. Tom is positive about this scheme. Anne felt the Forum should look to pay only the original £3,000. (Ian said the total for latest quote was somewhere in the region of £7k !!) The Council is the only registered official body which can erect and give authority to download the images to the police. Anne wants to "cut through all the red tape" and get the job completed.. A donation of £100 has been received towards the cameras from a local person.
- A local walking group is set to start - more information later.
- Car Boot sale on 8th June - rained off AGAIN! - the third time in a row! The Forum is going ahead with the 7th September one, hopefully the weather will be kinder.
- The ads in the Clarion ensure that this long running newsletter remains self-funding. The Forum website "Crosspool News" and also Twitter & Facebook are going strong — (4k viewings of the Plough story). If anyone has any news stories, please feed these to Ian & Steve for the webpage and Clarion. (For instance we have recently had a film crew on Coppice View filming "Running in the Family" and another film crew using the CDYST premises on Coidwell Lane filming the block buster musical "Everyone's talking about Jamie - first written as a play & showcased to great acclaim in Sheffield.) Anne had been able to watch some of this - with Crookes Working Men's club also being used; she said how excellent Sheffield theatre productions were - the recent "Life of Pi" being a case in point. Ian had been contacted by the BBC with a request for suitable premises to film a new series of "Back in Time".
- Grass verge cutting? There was a request to have these cut more frequently - as great wet clumps of long grass have at times been left. (Anne saw these being collected a day later as a separate job - which is surely more expensive- and they had been wind-blown into the gulleys thus blocking these. Some of the Crookes residents want their grass left to form wildflower meadows, & Tim said biodiversity was the modern way, but the problem then arises of getting rid of the strimmings once they have had a cut. Wild flower meadows do not easily appear by themselves and do need seeding to start off with. There are therefore possibly more management issues & costs. (Some junctions have poor sight lines and need low verges).
- Precinct planters: King Ted's year 8 pupils helped plant these up again this year. One planter had bunged up drainage holes, so due to a week of heavy rain got waterlogged and had to be replanted, The Benty Lane cub scouts planted up the precinct hanging baskets for us again - for which there is a team of 'waterers' - more needed please to cover holiday absences. A small donation has been received to cover the cost of some of the plants. The Orchard (Coldwell Lane) needs strimming twice a year - volunteers to help with that are needed and very welcome.
- Crosspool Memorial; Gillian said this was slow work but should be ready for erection in time for the November 11th special inauguration service.
- Motorworld shop & flat site - Manchester Rd/ Lydgate Lane corner; this has finally been demolished, but the tops of the two original Lydgate Hall gateposts have been saved - thank you to the builder. It had been intended to erect the whole posts at the entrance to Lydgate Green but because they are not original, only the stone tops have been put in the Green ready for bedding plants to surround them.
- Jon Ashe; postgrad researcher into Community Forums, presented his findings to the Committee recently. At the moment Crosspool is doing much better than Crookes and Walkley at involving residents & businesses. He has had some very positive feedback about the Clarion!
- Ian was sad to report the death of Joe Castle, for many years a well-respected local historian who had recently had to move to his daughter's in Devon for care, Joe died last week, 14<sup>th</sup> July at

age 92. He was still sending Ian articles till the end. Ian and Steve will attend his funeral next week at St, Nickolas Church, Bradfield, Thursday 1st August. He will be a sad loss to the community.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

John Drinkwater said the Ward Pot money had made the Easy Exercise classes viable, and wished to thank the Fayre & Festival volunteers, and the local businesses, for their hard work & support to enable the Forum to work for the community. The Forum continues to have a healthy bank balance.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

- Ian (Ben) Sherman started Ben's Centre in Sheffield in 1996. On behalf of the Festival Robert Boulter was delighted to hand him a cheque for £400 towards this. Ian S thanked everyone for this donation, and said during his 23 years as a Town Hall policeman he had become very aware of the problem with drunks in the Peace Gardens. The old cycle of arrest, cells, court appearance, then back out again was not working, and as there were all sorts of people - from plumbers to company directors - feeling this was all they could do he decided to make an "escape environment" for these homeless people.. He was given premises on Norfolk Street at a peppercorn rent in which people could feel safe, contact their families if they wish access services & hopefully get away from using "alcohol as a crutch". The Centre has "gone from strength to strength" and now even provided day trips such as one to Cleethorpes recently. The Forum Festival Week donation will definitely go to keep the centre going.
- Catherine Kelly of Sheffield Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Unit spoke of the hospitals' aim to 'achieve the very best they can for their patients', and how they support people with this debilitating disease. It affects the respiratory and digestive systems, and can lead to a lot of very intensive treatment and hospital care being needed. When young people transition from the Children's Hospital to the Northern General it can be frightening - a big adult place with a different team - so they have redeveloped their unit to provide a home from home - and this can be for month-long stays. The disease can be "life limiting as there are 12 isolated (- risk of infection - ) beds, meaning they can't socialize so each bed has been decorated differently - a forest, an oriental garden, a New York loft - for example, with places for relatives to sleep over & a dietician on hand to entice their appetites, with specially thought-out food.. (Some patients are taking 55 tablets a day!) She was therefore very grateful to be presented with a £400 cheque from the Crosspool Festival , by Robert Boulter husband of Dawn, last year's festival team leader, who sadly past away in the week following the 2018 festival.

#### POLICE REPORT

Ian H. had received a report from Pam Thompson, Local PCSO; (Pam, Phil W. and Nicola D had sent in their apologies). Steve read this out, summarised as follows:

20 burglaries of different sorts; 2 thefts of motor vehicles; 4 items stolen from vehicles, numerous arrests have been made and they have been very busy with some good results. The team had been able to attend some summer events but sadly not the Crosspool Fayre.

#### COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Anne Murphy wanted to mention that John Drinkwater has been in touch with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme people and been taking Minutes of the two meetings so far with the local police. These (in Crosspool & Crookes) have been "quite useful & helpful". A summer one was postponed as it was felt that the attendance would not be high, but there might be one in September or October. If anyone is not on his mailing list but wishes to be kept up to date with these please email John on [j.f.drinkwater.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.drinkwater.t21@btinternet.com) (There has been one instance recently where a house was obviously watched for days until the burglars guessed the occupant was away for the night and broke in. Please be vigilant.

John wished to add to this that now the police are under such pressure their attendance at meetings like the Open Meetings is impossible. But at the Policing Meetings Anne mentioned

they send inspectors and the Police & Crime Commissioner as well as the local policing team, so things get heard and acted upon.

- Manchester Rd speed limits; drivers must slow down very quickly from 50-30 mph around the Valleyside Garden Centre, which is dangerous, with several near-misses reported. Can this not be more gradual? A gent from the floor said several roads in the city are like this, & the general feel is there is enough length and good signage. However it was felt the change to 30 could start further out along the Manchester Rd - as the Garden Centre in and out turns are very tight.
- A query about MP Jared O'Mara & his fitness for office was raised. Cllr. Murphy has been looking into this as he has recently asked for 'time out' from his responsibilities and the role he has is proving too onerous. She felt his track record was "absolutely appalling" and on the three occasions she has talked to him, thinks he cannot cope - any support he is offered he does not accept.. She admitted feeling "very saddened by it" and has even been in touch with his parents to see what help they can offer.

#### EVENTS

- .Crosspool Festival 2019 - Roger Kite spoke to give a brief history of the Festival. This has been going for about 7 years, having started as a way to link Crosspool Open Gardens with the Summer Fayre. It is an arm of the Forum but run by a separate committee, so for instance Chris Batchelor runs the Sunday street market, and there is a well-dressing team that did a "super job" this year - which he wanted Minuted! They generally make a small profit so can offer this as donations to chosen charities.

Roger went on to say, no-one did as much work as Ian Hague for the Forum – and this was applauded. Ian thanked everyone saying that as a result of being committed to helping with his wife, after her debilitating accident and everything else, the help and assistance of Steve Reynolds was invaluable - and this was applauded. Anne said "Ian IS Crosspool.

- Fayre; Ian said despite the morning rain everything was set up - with helpers appearing in droves to help to do this - and a lot of people attended. Steve R wanted to say how the Fayre was for the benefit of the people of Crosspool with the aim of bringing everyone together. He wanted to give a big thank you to the sponsors and everyone who helped and attended,

#### AOB

- Crookes Social Club is celebrating 100 years with a weekend of events 9th - 11th Aug '19. Anne M had flyers to hand out, & said there will be a band, a children's beach day, and a 1940s theme night. (Any money raised will go to the Sheffield children's Hospital). There will also be a car boot sale - some pitches still available. Prizes for the raffle gratefully received. - There is a piece in the Star about it.
- Litter pickers - meet every first Saturday in the month at Archers' corner of 10am. Thank you everyone said Anne, especially to Barbaro, and Chris Shephard. It is definitely making a difference to the area.. Geraldine Poulton is still Keep Britain Tidy organizer - look at the Facebook page 'Sheffield Litter Pickers' - you might be in a different part of the city one day and can join in with their event!
- Dog-walking initiative; John Hanson, from the audience, said that there is a country-wide dog-walkers group where the members aim to pick up six pieces of rubbish every time they take their dogs out!

The next Open Meeting & AGM will be on Thursday 31st Oct 2019.